

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are currently pending in the present application, with Claim 1 being canceled. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims are not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Macri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,906). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled Claim 1 and respectfully traversed with respect to Claims 2 and 3.

The present invention is directed to a communication system between multiple video game terminals that are operatively coupled to a host computer, where the players of each video game terminal can play against other players by receiving and replaying the game play data of the other players. More specifically, the game play data of a player is first stored on the game terminal and then later transmitted to a host computer, which then transmits the stored game play data to the rest of the connected game terminals. The other game terminals then receive and replay the game play data (whether at the same time or at different times) while locally executing the game for the players of the game terminals. The present invention provides the ability for players around the world to play the same game in different times while providing simulated real-time experience of a multiplayer game.

Macri does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a network of game terminals where each terminal includes storage means for saving game play data that are then transmitted to a host computer. Additionally, Macri does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a host computer operatively coupled to a plurality of terminal game machines. Rather, Macri is simply mentions a multiplayer scenario in which multiple players are connected to each other via their respective personal computers, and during which the players are playing against each other in real time. This

scenario is no different than what was already described in the background section of the present application, and is plagued by the various problems already discussed in the present application. For instance, unless all of the players are connected via identical network connection and experience the same transmission delay, there will inevitably be discrepancies in the timings of player interaction with each other. The present invention solves this problem for certain game application, such as racing games, by first saving the play data of a player, transmitted to a host computer, which will then transmit the data to another player at a later time. The second player can then replay the first player's game play data while playing the game itself, experiencing a virtual real-time multiplayer game play without any unpredictable delay. This aspect of the present invention is simply not suggested anywhere in Macri. Specifically, Macri does not teach or suggest a host computer as recited in Claims 2 and 3.

With further regard to Claim 3, nowhere in Macri does it mention totalizing or generating data on the basis of result and replay data received from each of the plurality of terminal game machines. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Macri.

The Examiner rejected Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marci in view of Ng (U.S. Patent No. 5,971,855). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Macri does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a host computer as recited in Claims 2 and 3, Ng fails to make up for the deficiencies of Macri. Rather, Ng is directed to a system for facilitating communication between a handheld device and other electronic systems. Ng simply does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a host computer for receiving game replay data from a game terminals and transmitting the data to the rest of the plurality of game

terminals. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submit that Claims 4 and 5 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Macri or Ng, either alone or combined.

The Examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marci in view of Kaji et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,367 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Macri does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a plurality of game terminals, each of which include storage means and transmission means for saving reply data of a game. Furthermore, Macri does not contain any suggestion of a host computer for storing and transmitting the received reply data to the plurality of game terminals. Kaji fails to make up for the deficiencies of Macri. Instead, Kaji is directed to a communication system where multiple players are connected to form a communication network. While a host system 32 is provided for accessing data received from the connected devices, Kaji does not teach or suggest a host computer receiving replay data of a game from a game terminal and transmitting the data to the other terminals. Rather, the data received by the host system 32 is simply real-time game play data including packets of video and sound for enhancing three-dimensional video experience. This system would not allow different players to play at different times while experiencing a virtual real-time multiplayer action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submit that Claim 6 is not anticipate by, nor obvious in view of, Macri or Kaji, either alone or combined.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 497742000200. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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